

1 **In the Claims**

2 Please cancel claims 1-37 and 52-62 without prejudice.

3 Claims 38-51 are pending and are listed below:

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5 1.-37. (Canceled).

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7 38. (Original) A method comprising:

8 receiving a content request from a content requester;

9 retrieving the requested content from a content source;

10 processing the retrieved content to provide an abstract content model
11 comprising a directional graph featuring a top-down hierarchical structure having
12 nodes that represent components of the content and edges that represent
13 relationships between the nodes, the nodes being configured to have a node status
14 that defines dynamic statuses of nodes during content delivery, the node statuses
15 being selected from a group of statuses comprising: (1) inactive status where the
16 node is not yet a deliverable object, (2) activable status wherein an active
17 condition of the node is satisfied but the node is not yet included in a delivery
18 plan, (3) activated status wherein the node has been chosen in a delivery plan, (4)
19 delivered status wherein the node has been delivered successfully to a content
20 receiver, and (5) skipped status wherein the node is not delivered and will not be
21 included in the delivery plan; and wherein there are multiple different types of
22 edges selected from a group of types comprising: (1) a dependency edge type that
23 defines a logical dependency between nodes, (2) a route edge type that defines an
24 ordered or hierarchical dependency between nodes, and (3) a mixed edge type that

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1 defines a logical dependency between nodes and an ordered or hierarchical
2 dependency between nodes;

3 processing the abstract content model to select an optimal delivery plan the
4 use of which will permit requested content to be delivered to the content requester;
5 and

6 processing the abstract content model to provide deliverable content in
7 accordance with the selected delivery plan.

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9 39. (Original) The method of claim 38, wherein the abstract content
10 model comprises an ignition edge that is defined as a dependency edge from a
11 node that is activated, delivered or skipped.

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13 40. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein nodes have active
14 conditions that define how a node becomes activable.

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16 41. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein nodes have active
17 conditions that define how a node becomes activable, one of the conditions
18 comprising an automatic condition wherein the node is automatically activable.

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20 42. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein nodes have active
21 conditions that define how a node becomes activable, one of the conditions
22 comprising an OR condition wherein the node is activable if at least one of its
23 input edges is an ignition edge.

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1 43. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein nodes have active
2 conditions that define how a node becomes activable, one of the conditions
3 comprising an AND condition wherein the node is activable only if all its input
4 edges are ignition edges.

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6 44. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein nodes can have input
7 conditions that define when an activable node can be activated.

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9 45. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein nodes can have output
10 behaviors that define how nodes on ends of outgoing route edges can be branched
11 in accordance with a branching operation, where a branched node constitutes a
12 node that has been changed from an activable node to an activated node.

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14 46. (Original) The method of claim 45, wherein there are multiple
15 different branching operations.

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17 47. (Original) The method of claim 46, wherein one of the multiple
18 different branching operations comprises a complementary branching operation
19 wherein all activable nodes can be branched.

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21 48. (Original) The method of claim 46, wherein one of the multiple
22 different branching operations comprises an exclusive branching operation
23 wherein only one node from all activable nodes can be branched.

1 49. (Original) The method of claim 46, wherein one of the multiple
2 different branching operations comprises a tight branching operation wherein all
3 activable nodes must be branched.

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5 50. (Original) The method of claim 38, wherein nodes can have a value
6 associated with a Quality of Service (QoS) factor which defines an increment to
7 content quality when this node has been delivered.

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9 51. (Original) The method of claim 38, wherein nodes can have a
10 resource factor that defines an amount of resources needed to deliver the node.

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12 52.-62. (Canceled)

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